

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9800

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL BOMBAY PRIORITY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA PRIORITY

LUMJDH/AMCONEL HONG KONG PRIORITY 1849

AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY

AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY

AMCONSUL MADRAS PRIORITY

USLO PSAING

CINCPAC

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 9113

E.O. 116WC GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, IN

SUBJECT: CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION

SUMMARY: THE SITUATION TO OUR KNOWLEDGE CONTINUES TO BE
QUIET AROUND THE COUNTRY. THE RECENTLY ELECTED JANATA FRONT
GOVERNMENT OF GUJARAT IS ON ITS BEST BEHAVIOR TO AVOID GIVING
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THE CENTER ANY EXCUSE TO REIMPOSE PRESIDENT'S RULE. PRIME

MINISTER GANDHI MET WITH BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL LEADERS TO EXHORT THEM TO RAISE PRODUCTION AND TO BE RESPONSIVE TO THE LEGITIMATE DEMANDS OF LABOR. WRITS OF HABEAS CORPUS HAVE BEEN FILED IN THE SUPREME COURT CHALLENGING THE DETENTION OF VARIOUS PERSONS SUBSEQUENT TO THE PROCLAMATION OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY. THUS THE SUPREME COURT MAY HAVE TO CONSIDER THE VALIDITY OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ORDER LIFTING THE RIGHT OF INDIVIDUALS TO PETITION THE COURTS FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF THEIR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS. THE KERALA CHIEF MINISTER HAS TOLD THE PRESS THAT BANNED REACTIONARYSMORCES HAD CONNECTIONS WITH CERTAIN FOREIGN COUNTRIES (UNNAMED). END SUMMARY.

1. ALL CONTINUES

QUIET THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. CONGEN BOMBAY REPORTS THAT IN ITS DISTRICT MRS. GANDHI HAS PULLED IT OFF WITHOUT A RIPPLE OR WHIMPER. THE JANATE FRONT GOVERNMENT OF GUJARAT IS TRYING ITS BEST TO AVOID GIVING THE CENTER ANY EXCUSE TO REIMPOSE PRESIDENT'S RULE. ELSEWHERE, OPPOSITION ELEMENTS HAVE DISAPPEARED FROM VIEW. THE CONGEN NOTES THAT WHAT IS MOST SURPRISING IS THE SPEED WITH WHICH MOST HAVE ADJUSTED TO THE NEW SITUATION.

2. PRIME MINISTER GANDHI MET WITH LEADERS OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY JULY 7 TO EXHORT THEM TO RAISE PRODUCTION AND STREAM-LINE DISTRIBUTION. RESPONDING TO AN ISSUE RAISED BY LABOR LEADERS AT HER MEETING WITH THEM ON JULY 5, SHE TOLD THE NUMANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE LEGITIMATE DEMANDS OF THE WORKERS SHOULD BE MET AND THAT NO RECOURSE SHOULD BE HAD TO LOCK-OUTS, LAY-OFFS AND RETRENCHMENTS. THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FEDERATION OF INDIAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, THE ASSOCIATED CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, AND THE ALL-INDIA MANUFACTURING ORGANIZATION, WHO MIX WITH LYE PRIME MINISTER REPORTEDLY PROMISED THEIR FULL COOPERATION.

3. THE EIDTOR OF THE JANA SANGH DAILY, MOTHERLAND, K.R MALKANI AND SOCIALIST PARTY MP MADHU LIMAYE, BOTH OF WHOM WERE DETAINED FOLLOWING THE PROCLAMATION OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY HAVE FILED WRITS OF HABEAS CORPUS WITH THE SUPREME COURT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT LESSER-KNOWN PERSONALITIES HAVE ALSO FILED SIMILAR WRITS CHALLENGING THEIR DETENTION. THE CONFIDENTIAL

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SITTING VACATION JUDGE, KRISHNA IYER (WHO ISSUED THE CONDITIONAL STAY OF THE ALLAHABAD HIGH COURT ORDER AGAINST MRS. GANDHI) HAS ISSUED A SHOW CAUSE ORDER TO THE GOVERNMENT. THESE PETITIONS WILL SQUARELY PUT IN ISSUE THE PRESIDENTIAL ORDER OF JUNE 27TH LIFTING THE RIGHT OF INDIVIDUALS TO PETITION THE COURTS FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF THEIR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS.

4. THE PRESS JULY 8 REPORTS THE SEIZURE OF A VARIETY OF

MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS FROM THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE BANNED RSS IN NEW DELHI. THE CPI DAILY, PATRIOT, GOES OUT OF ITS WAY TO PUBLICIZE THE FACT THAT THE CARTRIDGES SEIZED HAD US MARKINGS.

5. THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR STATE ASSEMBLY WAS INFORMED ON JULY 7 THAT FIVE OF ITS MEMBERS BELONGING TO THE BANNED JAMMATI-I-ISLAMI HAD BEEN DETAINED. IN ADDITION, 35 GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES THERE WERE ALSO ARRESTED FOR ALLEGED POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.

6. ACCORDING TO A PTI REPORT, KERALA CHIEF MINISTER ACHUTHA MENON TOLD NEWSMEN THAT BANNED RIGHT REACTIONARY FORCES HAD CONNECTIONS WITH CERTAIN FOREIGN COUNTRIES. HE URGED THAT THESE BE MADE KNOWN TO THE PEOPLE TO CLEAR THEIR MISUNDERSTANDINGS.

7. WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF COMPILING LATEST ARREST TOTALS ON A STATE-WISE BASIS WHICH WE WILL BE FORWARDING SHORTLY. AFTERSTODAY'S POLITICAL SITUATION REPORT WE WILL NOT BE SENDING THIS TYPE OF WRAP-UP ON A DAILY BASIS, BUT ONLY AS WARRANTED BY DEVELOPMENTS. SEPARATE REPORTS ON THE ECONOMY AND THE GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC PROGRAMS WILL BE SENT. SAXBE

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